

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

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SENATE APPROVES SEN. CLARKE'S CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING BILL

LANSING- Calling it an important first step in the fight against childhood lead poisoning, state Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) stated that he was very pleased that his bill, Senate Bill 757, was adopted unanimously by the Michigan state Senate today. Senator Clarke's bill, part of a legislative package called for by Governor Granholm, would establish penalties for landlords who knowingly rent housing units with dangerous levels of lead. Sen. Clarke's bill would make repeat offenses of such an act punishable by up to 90 days imprisonment or a maximum fine of \$10,000 or both.

"The No. 1 public health crisis facing children in this state is lead poisoning," said Sen. Clarke. "Studies show that 69 percent of all confirmed cases of elevated blood lead levels are in Detroit. We need to do more to protect Detroit's children from this serious health hazard. My legislation seeks to help protect children by targeting unscrupulous landlords who knowingly rent housing units with lead contaminate problems."

The five-bill package includes measures that will:

- Create a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Control Commission;
- Require Medicaid managed Care Organizations and Fee for Service Providers to provide lead screening test to no fewer than 80 percent of Medicaid enrolled children;

- Require electronic reporting from Michigan laboratories of positive lead results;
- Create an online and printed “Lead Free Rental Housing Registry” that will include new lead-free construction units or inspected rental units that have been found to be lead free; and
- Create state civil and criminal penalties for landlords who knowingly rent homes with dangerous levels of lead.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

For an audio sound file of Sen. Clark discussing his bill, go to:

<http://www.senate.mi.gov/Audio%20Clips/01-012204.wav>

For a copy of the Governor’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention report, go to:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ChildLeadPoisoning2_71150_7.pdf

State Senator Hansen Clarke represents the 1st Senate District in the Michigan State Senate. He is a graduate of Cornell University and the Georgetown Law Center.